

NEVESTINSKO (BRIDE'S DANCE)

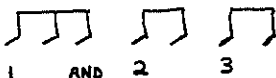
This dance is not a truly traditional folk dance. It was created by members of the Macedonian national ensemble "Tanec" in about 1949 or 1950 based on the actual movements and steps of a number of dances with which the individual members were familiar, some of which were in fact "Nevestinska Ora" from their own regions. The dance which they created is very elegant, and has since been done as a standard part of the repertoire of most Macedonian folk ensembles. It is always done in the traditional folk costume of western Macedonia, primarily of Mijak villages such as Galičnik and Lazaropole, but also of Debar and Debarski Drimkol.

"Nevestinsko Oro" as a type of dance exists. In many areas, the bride must lead the first dance done after she has been brought to the groom's house. The same dance may also be done on other, non-ritual, occasions. Such dances are often done by both men and women, although this dance, as it was choreographed, is intended only for women. It is reminiscent of certain rites which Mijak brides performed as a group once a year.

The word "nevesta" not only means "bride" in the sense of a girl on her wedding day, but may be applied to a married woman for the rest of her life by the family into which she has married. In fact, she might possibly be referred to only as "nesta" or "nevesta" and never by her actual name.

The song to which the dance is done by Tanec (and often in the USA) is "Prsten mi padna, male", which is a stylized version of a real folk song found throughout southwest Macedonia, especially the Bitola-Prilep area. The song is actually "Prsten ti padne, Nešo".

The rhythm is 7/8. We will indicate the beats as follows:



Open circle of women. Face RLOD. Hands are joined and held forward at shoulder level.

Measure	Beat		
I	1	Step R forward	Step slowly onto R foot and sink until you reach a position with full foot on the ground and R knee bent. L knee is also bent. L foot is near R foot, but just off the ground.
	and	Step onto ball of L foot	Straighten L leg so that body rises. R leg is held down and slightly forward. R knee straight and R foot barely off ground.
	2	Step onto R in place	R knee is flexed. L leg is by R and L knee is also flexed.

NEVESTINSKO, CONTINUED

Measure	Beat	
	3	Slowly straighten Free L leg is slowly brought forward and R leg and roll straightened in preparation for a step weight onto the ball forward. of the foot
II		Reverse footwork of I, still moving RLOD.
III	1	Step onto R forward Slowly sink by flexing k knee and then straightening it to prepare for a step forward. Free L is first bent at knee and held by R, and later is brought forward and straightened.
	2	Step onto L forward Reverse of 1.
IV-v		Same as I-II, except turn to face center, and dance moving into the center a bit.
VI		Turn to face RLOD and do III.
VII-VIII		Same as IV-V (so face center again.)
IX		Same as IV, but step back on R, still facing center.
X	1	Turn to face diagonally L of center, and step forward on L
	2	Step forward on R
XI	1	Face diagonally R of center. Step back on L (so you are moving diagonally out of the circle.
	2	Step back on R, still facing diagonally R of center.
XIII		Same as II, turning to face RLOD.